



Arlington Human Rights Commission Minutes

Date: Tuesday July 18, 2023

Time: 8:00 PM- 10:00 PM

Location: Conducted by Hybrid format (remote participation & in-person)

This will be a hybrid meeting. Individuals may choose one of the following in-person or virtual options:

1. Attend in person in the 2nd Floor HHS Conference Room at the Community Center (Senior Center), 20 Academy Street/27 Maple Street. Registration not required for in-person attendance.
2. *Notice to the Public on meeting privacy* In the interests of preventing abuse of videoconferencing technology (i.e. Zoom Bombing) all participants, including members of the public, wishing to engage via the Zoom App must register for each meeting and will notice multi-step authentication protocols. Further, members of the public who wish to participate without providing their name may still do so by registering to receive the meeting info and using the telephone dial in information provided.

When: Jul 18, 2023 08:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Register in advance for this meeting: <https://town-arlington-ma-us.zoom.us/join/tZYtf-ytrDsrHtTExxLDm6TmojyX30YObwNW>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

Attendees: Co-chair Pusey, Commissioners Soneja, Brown, Horowitz, Bauer, Grossman, Key, Beauchemin, Bryant, G. Jones

Absent: Commissioner Carney, S. Jones

APD: Captain Flynn

DEI: Jillian Harvey, Director

Minutes

1. Remote Meeting Notice and Land Acknowledgement - read by Co-Chair Pusey
 - a. Welcome to new Commissioner G. Jones
 - b. Acknowledged this is Commissioner Brown's last meeting
2. Review of June 2023 Meeting Minutes
 - a. Motion by Commissioner Soneja to accept with no changes, seconded by Commissioner Bryant. Passed unanimously with 3 abstentions.
3. Incidents & Complaints & APD Updates
 - a. Commissioner Updates:
 - i. Commissioner Soneja - no response from any of the 3 potential complainants. Discussion about how restricted phone numbers work. Captain Flynn to work with Commissioner Soneja to get contact information.
 - b. APD
 - i. New incident on 6/30 at Menotomy Rocks playground
 - ii. Event at Thompson school playground - National Night Out, police community building to get family & kids together
 - iii. Intruder active shooter training with FBI for APD
4. DEI Update (Jillian Harvey)
 - a. Supporting MBTA WG. Office hours at Robbins, outreach at farmer's market
 - b. Disability Commission's mobility chair at the Arlington Reservoir has been well received
 - c. Language access recommendations from equity audit and departmental one-on-ones is the biggest challenge. Purchased handheld translator tools; pilot will commence. Various departments will begin to use. APS figuring it out. 78 languages included apparently. Does not enable ASL, but options with other devices are available.
 - d. Oct-Nov to assess surveys
 - e. MAPC project wrapping up, will have best practices guide
 - f. Disability comm newsletter up and running, rotation of co-chairs, 2 new commissioners and complete.
 - g. Rainbow Commission one short due to departure for school committee. Upcoming picnic.
 - h. State has updated sexuality guidance for first time in 27 yrs. Rainbow Commission to look into it.
 - i. NAACP convention in Boston, Jillian will be out for next few weeks. Open to all, lots of free events, HUD discussions, food, music, etc.
5. MAHRC Update/Issues - Commissioner Soneja
 - a. Presentation on Raise the Age. FAQs here: <https://www.raisetheagema.org/faqs>
 - i. Motion by Commissioner Soneja to endorse Raise the Age and release a statement, seconded by Commissioner Grossman. Passed with 1 abstention. Commissioner G. Jones to help with draft.
6. Working Groups Update
 - a. Schools & Education

- i. No meeting this month.
- ii. Calendar issue: Commissioner Grossman met with Ms. Exton of the School Committee and talked about how to better work together. APS to use ADL calendar. Good first step, but lacks guidance to staff
Comments:
 - 1. Commissioner Soneja - we really need to work on providing guidance, should work with community.
 - 2. Commissioner Bryant - how do we educate teachers so they can educate the students?
 - 3. Commissioner Brown - ADL is descriptive and 21 pages long, how do they plan to disseminate to staff & community so they become culturally aware? Easton calendar already has a breakdown of practicable and actionable tasks.
- iii. Anti-Semitic incident in library: Letter to community. Working with clergy to raise consciousness about reasons why this is so prevalent. Lexington interfaith clergy sponsored a moving presentation, will reach out to check if a similar program can be held in Arlington and AHRC can sponsor. Also want to speak with Social Services director of APS to check if this can be built into the curriculum to address issues.
- b. Outreach/Events
 - i. Motion by Commissioner Soneja to submit a form to Robbins Library to encourage the selection of the book *Linked*, addressing anti-Semitism, for a reading program, seconded by Commissioner Bauer. Passed unanimously. Book info: <https://gordonkorman.com/linked>
 - ii. A volunteer was interested in doing a Day of Mourning event, but we were advised to promote the Plymouth event instead of conducting our own.
 - iii. Hispanic Heritage Month starts 9/15. We are addressing it in social media and the newsletter.
 - iv. Town Day and National Night Out are important events for outreach. Asking for people to sign up and cover the NNO event in August. Discussion about National Night Out event (August 1) - Is it ok to volunteer for this event since we've had questions about working too closely with APD.
 - 1. Jill Harvey: Previous year's event was a very fun-filled family event, so it's mostly a social event so it's a great way to be part of the community and for outreach since Town Day can be overwhelming for some community members.
 - 2. Commissioner Bryant volunteered to be present.
- c. Communications
 - i. Looking for newsletter ideas.
 - ii. Discussed how to gather content for Hispanic Heritage Month.
- d. Town Day (Saturday, Sept. 23) - Scott Jones to lead effort

7. Co-chairs Report

- a. Commissioner Participation & Expectations (WG Sign-ups) will be covered via email (or in next meeting)
- b. Monthly meeting with APD Chief Flaherty - not held
- c. Monthly meeting with DEI commission co-chairs - covered in DEI updates

8. Community Input – None
9. Announcements
 - a. Farewell comments by Commissioner Brown. stepping down due to family reasons
 - b. Next meeting – Wednesday, August 16
 - c. Incident Handling:
 - i. June: Commissioner Soneja
 - ii. July: Commissioner Carney
 - iii. August: Commissioner Beauchemin
10. Adjournment
 - a. Motion by Commissioner Grossman to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Bauer. Passed unanimously.